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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Bernard Belleau et al.

Examiner: T. McKenzie

Serial No.: 09/760,380

Group Art Unit: 1624

Filed: January 16, 2001

Title: PROCESS FOR PREPARING SUBSTITUTED 1,3-OXATHIOLANES
WITH ANTIVIRAL PROPERTIES

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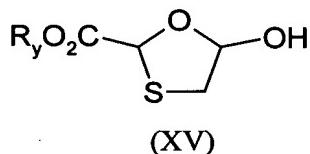
REPLYAssistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

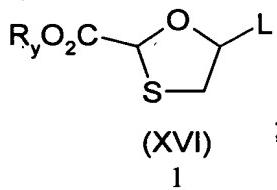
In response to the Office Actions dated October 10, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

--35. A process comprising:
reacting a mercaptoacetaldehyde with a compound of formula $R_yOOCCHO$, wherein R_y is C_{1-12} alkyl or C_{6-20} aryl to obtain a compound of formula (XV)



converting the hydroxyl group of the compound of formula (XV) to a leaving group L to obtain a compound of formula (XVI):



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